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**Media Release:**

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***Gary Allen enters plea agreement for southside arson***

*House fire in May 2011 resulted in the death of two individuals*

(Indianapolis, Ind.) Marion County Prosecutor Terry Curry announced today that Gary Allen, Indianapolis, has entered a plea agreement admitting to starting an intentional fire which resulted in the deaths of Anna and Jerry Richards. As outlined in the plea agreement, Allen will serve a total executed sentence of 75 years in prison.

On May 16, 2011, Gary Allen was charged with setting fire to a residence at 1119 S. State Street. As set forth in the probable cause affidavit, Allen admitted to intentionally setting the fire in the early morning hours of May 10, 2011 and did so knowing that Ms. Richards and her son, as well as an additional female, were inside and likely asleep when he set the fire. Allen then admitted that he watched the fire until he was satisfied it was burning and then returned inside to await discovery and response by fire department personnel. By that time, however, the fire was out of control, and the Richards were unable to get out of the residence.

In the plea agreement, which was entered and accepted by the court on June 29, 2012, Allen pleaded guilty to two counts of Arson Resulting in Death, both Class A Felonies. As part of the agreement, Allen waived his right to appeal the total executed sentence of 75 years in the Department of Corrections.

"It was the thorough work and cooperation of Indianapolis Metropolitan Police officers and Indianapolis Fire Department arson investigators that allowed our office to bring charges against Gary Allen," said Prosecutor Curry. "Gary Allen's plea ensures that he will likely live out the rest of his days in prison for committing such a senseless crime."

Gary Allen will be sentenced on July 11, 2012 at 8:30 a.m.